

Press Release

**From Councillor Barry Stamp
Stafford Borough Councillor
Church Eaton Ward**

Date : 12th February 2006

Use: Immediate

County Council Accused Of Dragging Their Feet Over Death Crash Road

A leading campaigner for safety on the A518 between Stafford and Newport has today added his weight to the campaign to get urgent improvements carried out to the road which, last week, was described as one of the most dangerous in the County by local residents.

Stafford Borough Councillor for Houghton Barry Stamp, who until last year was County Councillor for the area, said he was appalled the County Council were dragging their feet on improving the road despite the fact they acknowledge that excess traffic speeds were a cause for concern.

“During my time as County Councillor for Gnosall I had pressurised the Highways department into carrying out a comprehensive safety review of the A518 between Stafford and the County boundary at Newport. The findings of this review were published in May 2004. The report highlighted that the potential for excessive speeds existed on the stretch of road near to Aqualate, a situation not helped by the difficult road junction and stream bridge at Coley Mill. The report aput the dangerous junction at the top of the priority list for improvements and recommended that a new bridge was built over the stream at this point which would allow the A518 to be realigned and made safer. However since I lost my County Council seat a year ago it appears no further action has been taken to implement these much needed improvements. I am appalled the County council are dragging its feet to improve the safety of this stretch of road which they themselves admit is dangerous. I am also worried that with the County Council now saying they are facing growing budget difficulties this work will be allowed to slip even further. Something really must be done now before more lives are lost and further delays are not acceptable. With this in mind I will be writing to Terry Dix the Council Leader, John Wakefield the Council’s Cabinet Member responsible for Highway matters, and Ron Hilton the Director of Development Services reminding them of the A518 Route Strategy priority list and urging them to make the money available to carryout the improvement work as soon as possible,” said Barry Stamp.

Further details from: Councillor Barry Stamp

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Notes to Editors

- i) Staffordshire County Council published its A518 Route Management Strategy in May 2004.
- ii) The Strategy document used a ranking system to prioritise 11 improvements for the A518 – Coley Mill road junction and the realignment of the A518 was ranked in first place.
- iii) The document estimated the cost of building the new bridge, realigning the A518 and carryout junction and visibility improvements at the point would be £300,000.
- iv) A photo can be arranged at Coley Mill junction with Barry Stamp and the A518 Route Strategy Document – please telephone Barry on 01785 822723 to arrange.